

Sydney

Thursday 8th March: Barangaroo Wharf

David (and his soon-to-be-erstwhile house-mate, Ruth) have treated us so well and their company has been so 'great' that there has not been a window of opportunity for me to sit quietly and log our experiences. David has lived and worked in Sydney since he was a child and has been anxious that we share and experience this lovely city with him.

He rescued us at the airport while Nick was attempting to find the correct sim-card; the weather



was rainy but already, David was in tour-guide mode, driving back to his pad through the city and touching on parts of the harbour. We saw the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, albeit in rain.

But for the last three days the sun has shone, we've seen lots of blue sky and we've had a great time. Each day, except yesterday we have breakfasted on freshly squeezed orange juice and an amazing

coffee, banana, honey smoothy/shake and a good Australian coffee (sorry NZ – they do coffee better here!). On Sunday, I went to the Sydney Friends Meeting in the city, while Nick and David walked and talked. For the rest of the day we 'experienced' the harbour: ferry and lunch at Mossman Bay (barramundi) overlooking water and boats; ferry back to Circular Quay and onwards, criss-crossing the harbour to see James Craig (tall-ship); late tea and scones in terrace garden; final ferry to car as the weather closed in on us and the rain fell for the evening and the rest of the day.



On Monday, a picnic was packed and we set off, on wheels this time, north and east up through the bush to West Head,

stopping for an off-road walk to see ancient aboriginal rock carvings. Then on to The Head where bush opens out onto an amazing vista where we observed the muddy, inland water meeting the sea and headlands, beaches, bush and lighthouse. (and a giant goanna/lace monitor) It was then 'barby' time – steak, prawns cooked in the bush with more goanas, a brush turkey running around our feet and the noisy Australian birds about and above. Further car – more beaches and

delightful meeting with David's sister (charismatic lady – time too short!) more beaches, wonderful sunset, and home.

Time for this writing fast running out so ... Wednesday, city and art gallery and poor David having to escort us to shops for n'th time – mostly for Nick! Also memories of wonderful evening meals and equally wonderful, engaging company so.... all too soon out time was running out. Yesterday, we enjoyed a final treat –brunch on the harbourside, right under the world famous bridge, followed by a brisk walk to Mrs Maquaries Point and up through the Botanical Gardens, then thro' the sumptuous Victorian Arcades and then sad farewells.



Feel sorry for all those embarking from other side of the world expecting sunshine – especially those who have been travelling for the last 48 hours!